

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:137

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004

ILL TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Chouhan Shri Shivraj Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the cases of ill treatment of Indian workers in Bahrain as reported in the Hindi daily 'Hindustan' dated June 10, 2004;
- (b) if so, whether such cases have been reported from other countries as well especially Saudi Arabia;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the interest of these workers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such incidents are reported from time to time from countries where there are large numbers of Indian workers like Saudi Arabia as well as Singapore and Malaysia.

(c) Initially 24 workers of a Bahraini Company, M/s Owaineti Construction were not paid salary and overtime. After the intervention of Embassy of India and the pressure from Bahraini authorities, the Company agreed to pay outstanding dues to the workers and provide them tickets to return to India. Out of the 24 workers, one worker resumed his work, one ran away and one has returned to India. Employer agreed to repatriate the remaining 21 workers in batches and the first batch of six workers has returned to India on 09-07-2004.

(d) & (e): India's Missions/Posts take appropriate action to protect the interest of Indian workers and provide all possible assistance in such cases.